

God's Rescue Plan

THE GOSPEL REVEALED • PART 2

Galatians 1:3-5 | Arvin Assembly of God | Pastor Brian Overturf | August 30, 2026

INTRODUCTION

Last week: by whose authority? God says. Sent, not from men. Signed by Jesus Christ and the Father who raised Him. Settled. Now Paul tells us what that word brings us.

Galatians 1:3

³ Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ,

Grace and peace. Grace is God's undeserved favor, poured out when you did nothing to earn it. Peace is what grace produces. Not a calm feeling. Peace with God. The war is over.

Romans 5:1

¹ Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

You were on the wrong side of Him. An enemy in your mind by wicked works. The cross ended the war. You're not His enemy anymore. Justified. Adopted. An heir.

Everybody loves a rescue story. A car goes into the river and a stranger dives in. We can't look away, because deep down we all know what it is to need one. Christianity, at its heart, is a rescue religion.

How far did God go to rescue you?

Paul gives us four answers. He paid the Price. He delivered us from Prison. His will was the Plan. And to Him belongs the Praise.

1. He Paid the Price

| ...who gave Himself for our sins... (Gal. 1:4)

He gave... Himself. Not advice. Not a good example. Not resources. Himself. The eternal Son of God, who spoke the galaxies into being. Heaven had no greater treasure. That is what God spent on you.

Wondering what you're worth to God? Don't look in the mirror. Look at the cross.

He gave willingly. Nobody took it from Him. We picture the cross as something that happened to Jesus. That is not how Jesus saw it.

John 10:18

¹⁸ No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.

The nails didn't hold Him to that cross. His love did.

"For our sins." That little word "for" means in the place of. In your place. The reason you needed rescuing is your sin, and sin has a price.

MY NOTES

Romans 6:23

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

That's the bill. Somebody had to pay it. Either you, forever... or a substitute. That word is the whole gospel. Isaiah saw it seven hundred years out.

Isaiah 53:6

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

God gathered it all up and laid it on His Son. Jesus took the bill with your name on it and paid it in full.

2 Corinthians 5:21

²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

The great exchange. The only man who never sinned, treated like the worst sinner who ever lived, so sinners like us could be treated like the righteous Son of God.

Mark 10:45

⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

You were the captive. His life was the ransom. He didn't argue over the amount. Have you ever really received Him? Not admired Him from a distance. Received Him.

2. He Delivered us from Prison

| ...that He might deliver us from this present evil age... (Gal. 1:4)

Deliver. Rescue. Pull out. An action word. Reaching into danger and yanking somebody out. The word for Egypt and Pharaoh. The word for the night an angel broke Peter out.

Acts 12:11

¹¹ ...Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people.

God specializes in prison breaks. And Paul names the prison: "this present evil age." Two ages in your Bible. This one, in rebellion under the enemy. The age to come, where God makes everything right.

2 Corinthians 4:4

⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

Not harmless background noise. A system with a spirit behind it, and it had you. It taught you what to want and what to fear. Your worth is your paycheck. Revenge is justice. More is the answer. Most never know they're in it.

And you could not get yourself out. A prisoner can't pardon himself.

Colossians 1:13

¹³ He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

A prison break and an adoption at the same time. But hear this. Paul does not say He delivers us out of the world. Still work Monday. Still bills. Still Arvin. The rescue is that this world no longer owns you.

Romans 12:2

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Don't be conformed. Don't let it put you back in prison. You can be rescued and still walk back into the cell. That is what was happening to the Galatians. Back under law. Back under earning. Back under fear.

Titus 2:11-12

¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,

Grace doesn't forgive you and leave you to figure it out. Grace trains you, right here, to say no to the old life and yes to the new.

So make it real. What part of this present evil age are you still living in? The fear? The greed? The bitterness? A cell you keep letting the enemy lock behind you? He paid too high a price for that.

3. His Will is THE Plan

| ...according to the will of our God and Father... (Gal. 1:4)

That phrase pulls the curtain back on heaven. The cross was not an accident. Not plan B. Not God reacting to a mess He didn't see coming.

A lot of people picture an angry Father and a loving Son, like Jesus talked Him into sparing us. That is not the gospel. Whose will was the cross? "Our God and Father."

John 3:16

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

The rescue began in the heart of the Father. But don't swing the other way either, as if He forced it on an unwilling Son.

Luke 22:42

⁴² saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."

The Father willed the rescue. The Son embraced it. There is no division in God here.

Revelation 13:8

⁸ All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Before Adam ever reached for the fruit, the Lamb was already appointed.

Isaiah 53:10

¹⁰ Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days...

It pleased the Lord to bruise Him. Not because He is cruel, but because He is that committed to rescuing you.

Acts 2:23

²³ **Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;**

Wicked hands did it, and yet it was the determined purpose of God. Both are true. Men meant it for evil. God meant it for your rescue.

Ephesians 1:4-5

⁴ **just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,** ⁵ **having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,**

Before there was an ocean or a mountain or a star, the Father set His love on you and wrote the plan. So it isn't fragile. You didn't talk God into loving you, and you can't talk Him out of it.

4. To Him Belongs the Praise

| **...to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Gal. 1:5)**

A doxology. A burst of praise. Paul does this nowhere else. Every other letter he says hello and moves to business. Only here does he stop and take a praise break.

Why? Because you cannot go back over a rescue like this and stay calm.

Notice who gets the glory. To God. Not to Paul. Not to us. You didn't rescue yourself. You didn't even help. You were the drowning one.

If a man drags you onto the bank and breathes life back into your lungs, you talk about him the rest of your life. So if the cross has become boring, have you forgotten you were drowning?

Revelation 5:12

¹² **...Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!**

The rescued singing about the Rescuer. That is what you were made for, and what you'll be doing forever.

Philippians 2:10-11

¹⁰ **that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,** ¹¹ **and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

Every knee. Every tongue. The only question is whether you bow now, gladly, as one of the rescued... or later, forced, as one who refused. Paul chose now.

CONCLUSION

He paid the Price. He delivered us from Prison. His will was the Plan. All of that was God's work for you. The Praise is your work back to Him. Not to pay Him back. You can't. Your gratitude. Your worship. Your life lived out loud as a thank you.

You were saved for the glory of God, so now you live for the glory of God.